existing specific rates. The study group was of the view that fixation of royalty on ad-valorem basis, without a commitment from State Governments to refrain from levying cesses, would not be equitable as it would have a cascading effect on the price of coal paid by the consumers.

The report of the Study Group was received in 1985.

Over the years, quantum of cesses being levied by some State Governments have increased so much that royalty has become practically insignificant when compared to the amount accruing to State Government by way of cesses.

The rates of royalty on coal are not being revised now in view of the problems posed by imposition of cess/ levies on coal by some of the State Governments.

Supply of Kerosene to States

@1936. SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether each State in the country is supplied with kerosene as per its demand;

(b) if so, the quantity of kerosene demanded by each State since January, 1989 and the actual quantity supplied to each State, month-wise;

(c) the price at which kerosene is sold in each State; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to ensure that the poor people in far flung villages get kerosene according to their requirement and at Government fixed rate?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a), (b) and (d) As per the existing policy, the allocation of kerosene to various States/UTs is done on the basis of historical sales on the basis of three-blocks per year, allowing a suitable growth rate over the corresponding block of the previous year. Additional *adhoc* allocations are considered for floods, drought cyclone etc. The Central Government only makes bulk allocations to States/UTs. Responsibility for smooth functioning of the distribution system at the retail level rests with the State Governments. The figures of allocation of kerosene to various States/UTs since January 1989 are attached. [See Appendix CLIV Annexure No. 97]

(c) The Central Government fixes only ex-storage point price (Basic ceiling selling price) of kerosene which is uniform throughout the country. The basic ceiling selling price of kerosene for domestic & non-domestic use is Rs. 1956.93 and Rs. 3039.06 per K.L. respectively. The retail prices are fixed by the respective State Government and vary from State to State, and place to place even within a State, depending on transport costs, local taxes etc.

मैसर्स मैटकाम सिलिकान लिमिटेड द्वारा सौर-बैटरी का विकास

†1937. **श्री राम नरेश यादव:** क्या ऊर्जा मंत्री 1 सितम्बर, 1988 को राज्य सभा में अतारांकित प्रश्न 4439 के दिये गये उत्तर को देखेंगे और यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सौर-बैटरी के विकास के लिए मैसर्स मैटकाम सिलिकॉन लिमिटेड के पक्ष में एक अनुसंधान और विकास परियोजना को स्वीकृति दी गई है; यदि हाँ, तो क्या यह भी सच है कि उक्त परियोजना 1 फरवरी, 1990 तक पूरी नहीं हुई थी; यदि हाँ, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं;

(ख) उक्त परियोजना का क्या उद्देश्य था और क्या उस उद्देश्य को पूरा कर लिया गया है; यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं; और

(ग) क्या सरकार ने सिलिकॉन के क्षेत्र में उत्पन्न स्थिति को देखते हुए दूसरी सिलिकॉन वेफर निर्माण यूनिट को सहायता उपलब्ध कराने का निर्णय किया है; यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या क्या कारण हैं?

@Previously Unstarred Question 1095 ransferred from the 18th May, 1990

†Previously Unstarred Question 1425 ransferred from the 22nd May, 1990

पैट्रोलियम और रसायन मंत्री (श्री एम० एस० गुरुपदस्वामी): (क) और (ख) पोली सिलिकॉन। उत्पादन प्रौद्योगिकी के उन्नयन हेतु मैसर्स मैटकाम सिलिकॉन लिमि० को एक अनुसंधान और विकास परियोजना मंजूर की गई थी। इस परियोजना के मुख्य उद्देश्य पोली सिलिकॉन सामग्रियों के उत्पादन में ऊर्जा उपभोग को कम करना तथा ऐसे उत्पादन की लागत को क्रम करना है। यह परियोजना फरवरी, 1990 तक पूरी नहीं हुई। कम्पनी के अनुसार इस विलम्ब का कारण इस अनुसंधान और विकास परियोजना के लिए अपेक्षित उच्च प्रशिक्षित तकनीकी कर्मचारियों की भर्ती में होने वाली कठिनाइयाँ और वर्ष 1989 के अंत में लगभग चार माह तक चली श्रमिक हड़ताल थी। परियोजना उद्देश्यों को प्राप्त करने के लिए अब कार्य प्रगति पर है।

(ग) मैसर्स मैटकाम सिलिकॉन लिमि० को दी जा रही यह सहायता बेसिक पोलीसिलिकॉन के उत्पादन के लिए प्रौद्योगिकी से संबंधित अनुसंधान और विकास कार्य के लिए है। अन्य सिलिकॉन फर्मे केवल वेफर का निर्माण करती हैं और इन फर्मों से कोई विशिष्ट अनुसंधान और विकास प्रस्ताव नहीं आया है।

Salary and wage bills of M/s. Associated Journals Limited

1938. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the last three years the salary and wage bills of M/s. Associated Journals Limited at New Delhi have increased from rupees three lakhs to rupees twenty lakhs per month; and

(b) if the answer is in affirmative, the source from which the increased expenditure is met?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) M/s Associated Journals Limited bring out its publications from Lucknow, Delhi, Bhopal, Patna and Guwahati. The salary and wages paid by the company as disclosed in its Annual Reports amounted to Rs. 1.03 crores, Rs. 1.40 crores and Rs. 1.94 crores in the years ended the 31st of March, 1987, 1988 and 1989 respectively. There is no provision in the Companies Act requiring the company to disclose in its Annual Report the expenditure on each of its offices separately.

(b) The expenditure on salary and wage bills of a company are met from total income and not out of any specified sources. The Major sources of income of this company include circulation, advertisement and building rent, etc.

Proposed Research Centre on Lung disorders

1939. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a research centre for the study of lung disorders caused by industrial mishaps is proposed to be set up in Delhi;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the three organisations involved in the setting up of the centre, namely, the University of Delhi, the Indian Council of Medical Research and the Vithalbhai Patel Chest Institute are pulling the proposal in diverse directions, and

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha

Environment polluted in Assam due to mining by Coal India Limited

1940. SHRI BHADRESWAR BURAGOHAIN: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are aware of